

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:578

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2015

Expansion of Telecom Services

Chhewang Shri Thupstan

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) details of the schemes/projects taken up and funds allocated to Jammu and Kashmir State for expansion of communication services during the financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16;

(b) whether the Government has received a comprehensive proposal for expansion of telecommunication services in J&K particularly in Ladakh region to be funded under USO funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Ministry propose to consider such a proposal in view of strategic importance of Ladakh region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) During the financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16; Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has allocated Rs.42.61 crores and Rs. 93.43 crores respectively to Jammu and Kashmir State for expansion of communication services. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has also allocated funds to the tune of Rs. 27 lakhs during the financial year 2014-15 and Rs.39 lakhs during 2015-16 towards expansion of communication services in Jammu and Kashmir State. The status of NOFN Project in the State of Jammu & Kashmir is as under:

<PRE>

Sl.

No. State Districts Blocks GPs Incr. cable to be laid

(Km) Pipe laid

(Km) Cable laid

(Km)

1 J & K 12 22 624 1068 55 49

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(b) to (d) At present, no such comprehensive proposal to be funded under USO Funds has been received for expansion of telecommunication services in Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in Ladakh region.